Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 9 and 10 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing by ejecting an ink containing a colorant from a print head onto a print medium, comprising:

at least one ink absorber configured to absorb the ink discharged from the print head,

wherein the at least one ink absorber contains a coagulation inhibitor inhibiting coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink discharged from the print head by preventing contact among particles of the colorant due to an effect of steric hindrance, and

wherein the coagulation inhibitor includes a nonionic surfactant with five or more ethylene oxide groups.

2. (Previously Presented) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a platen configured to support the print medium and configured to be arranged in a position facing the print head,

wherein the at least one ink absorber is installed in the platen to absorb the ink ejected outside the print medium when a printing operation is performed on edge portions of the print medium.

3. (Previously Presented) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

preliminary ejection means for causing the print head to perform a preliminary ejection of the ink; and

a preliminary ejection receiver for receiving the ink ejected by the preliminary ejection means,

wherein the at least one ink absorber absorbs the ink received in the preliminary ejection receiver.

4. (Previously Presented) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

ink discharging means for discharging the ink from the print head by a method other than ejection of the ink by the print head; and

an ink discharging path for transporting the ink discharged by the ink discharging means,

wherein the at least one ink absorber absorbs the ink transported through the ink discharging path.

5. (Previously Presented) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a reaction liquid head for ejecting a reaction liquid, the reaction liquid accelerating coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink;

reaction liquid discharging means for discharging the reaction liquid from the reaction liquid head; and

a reaction liquid discharging path for transporting the reaction liquid discharged by the reaction liquid discharging means,

wherein the at least one ink absorber absorbs the ink transported through the ink discharging path and the reaction liquid transported through the reaction liquid discharging path.

6. (Previously Presented) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reaction liquid head for ejecting a reaction liquid, the reaction liquid accelerating coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink.

7. (Previously Presented) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

supply means for supplying the coagulation inhibitor to the at least one ink absorber.

8. (Original) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said supply means comprises a coagulation inhibiting liquid head for ejecting the coagulation inhibitor.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing by ejecting an ink containing a colorant from a print head to a print medium, comprising:

an ink absorber for absorbing the ink discharged from the print head; and

application means for applying a coagulation inhibitor to the ink absorber, the coagulation inhibitor inhibiting coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink discharged from the print head by preventing contact among particles of the colorant due to an effect of steric hindrance, wherein the coagulation inhibitor includes a nonionic surfactant with five or more ethylene oxide groups.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an ink absorber used for an ink jet printing apparatus for printing by ejecting an ink containing a colorant from a print head to a print medium, the ink absorber for absorbing the ink discharged from the print head, said method comprising the steps of:

immersing the ink absorber in a liquid containing a coagulation inhibitor, the coagulation inhibitor for inhibiting coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink discharged from the print head by preventing contact among particles of the colorant due to an effect of steric hindrance, wherein the coagulation inhibitor includes a nonionic surfactant with five or more ethylene oxide groups; and

drying the ink absorber that was immersed in the liquid.

11. (Original) An ink absorber manufactured by the method of claim 10.